



Lent 4

PEACE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

March 11, 2026

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Please note these things:

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE WEDNESDAY SERVICES

The main reason for our Wednesday evening services during Lent is to hear the Passion History of Christ leading up to his death and burial. This year we are hearing it – segment by segment – from the Gospel of Matthew.

We don't get to hear the Passion History like this in its unbroken entirety any other time of the year. This tradition helps us to prepare for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

THOSE WHO TURNED THEIR BACKS ON HIM

Throughout the Passion History how many times did people close to Jesus turn their backs on Him? If He was to be the Redeemer of the world, He had to go it alone. He would not be cheered, celebrated or assisted along the way. Rather, abandonment, isolation and being singled out were His lot. But He resolved to take this bitter pill for our sakes in order to save us. How precious is His love for us! There is no end to the thanks and obedience we owe Him.

Before the service... here's an idea: look up one of the hymns that we will be singing tonight in the hymnal. Read through the words of the hymn. Drink in what it's saying.

Thought for the day... are you planning ahead to give a special thank offering on Easter Sunday? On Good Friday? On Maundy Thursday? Have you decided already what that gift will be? What a beautiful way to celebrate these happy events!

WEDNESDAY LENTEN OFFERINGS

The offerings from our Wednesday Lenten services will go toward our Peace Lutheran School tuition assistance. The Tuition Assistance Fund is entirely funded by individual gifts and supports member students who desire to send their children to Peace but cannot afford tuition. The School Board receives these applications and approves financial support based on need and the funds available in the Tuition Assistance Fund.

YOU CAN GIVE GENERAL OFFERINGS ELECTRONICALLY

Log on to our website – www.peacewels.org – and click on “Current Member Information” under the “Church” top menu.

The Bible tells us to give a regular percentage of our income (1 Co 16:2). We are to give from the top and not the leftovers after the bills are paid (Pr 3:9). In this way we ascribe to God his worth to us as well as our confidence in him to provide.

THE SYMBOL ON THE COVER

The letters on the cross (It looks like “ihs”) are the first three letters of the name “Jesus” in Greek. The Christian Church has used this symbol for many centuries to remind us of Jesus.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider..... Rev. Shaun Arndt
Keyboard Mrs. Sarah Bilitz
Junior ChoirMrs. Lisa Schoenherr, director; Mrs. Sarah Bilitz, accompanist
Vocalist Luke Werre

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Peace

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

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INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, save us from the treachery of our own hearts. Work in us true repentance. Help us cling for mercy to Christ's atoning death. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may lead a Christian life, prepare for a blessed departure, and finally fall asleep in peace and so be received joyfully into your heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Is It I, Lord?
by Mark Kellner

*Surrounded by his friends, seated at his table,
He drew them close, to tell them of his love.
The twelve He knew so well, thought that they were able
to follow him wherever He would go.
But then, to their surprise, sadness filled his eyes;
He told his friends how one them would give him up to evil men.
And suddenly, the room filled with their cries:*

Refrain

*Is it I, Lord? Is it I, Lord? Am I the one to send You to the cross?
How could I be the one to betray God's only Son? Is it I, Lord? Is it I?*

*Surrounded by our friends, seated at his table,
we recall the story of his love,
how He gave his life, as only He was able.
Jesus was the perfect sacrifice.
And then we realize, and tears flood our eyes;
His life was lived for us to see. His blood was shed for you and me
and suddenly, our hearts fill with the cry: Refrain*

*To buy my pardon, Jesus died for me. "It is finished," Jesus cried for me.
It was I, Lord! It was I, Lord! I'm the one that sent You to the cross.
You have paid my price by your guiltless sacrifice. It was I, Lord! It was I!*

READING

Matthew 26:57-75

⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the experts in the law and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸Peter was following him at a distance and went as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the guards to see how it would turn out.

⁵⁹The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward ⁶¹and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶²The high priest stood up and said to him, "Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!"

⁶⁴Jesus said to him, "It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! ⁶⁶What do you think?"

They answered, "He is deserving of death!" ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and punched him. Some slapped him ⁶⁸and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?"

⁶⁹Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean."

⁷⁰But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about."

⁷¹When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

⁷²Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man."

⁷³After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them because even your accent gives you away."

⁷⁴Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man!" Just then the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

In the Hour of Trial | CW 406

DEVOTION

Matthew 26:74

Peter

CREED

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN

*I Look Not Back*¹ | 815

A vocalist will sing verse 1.

¹ This hymn ties directly to the account of Peter. The Gospel of Luke tells us that the Lord “turned and looked at Peter” (Lk 22:61).

PRAYER

O God our Father, by your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

*Now the Light Has Gone Away*² | 784:3



3 Let my near and dear ones be safe with you e - ter - nal - ly.



O bring me and all I love to your hap - py home a - bove.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, Kaiserswerth, 1842

Text and tune: Public domain

² This hymn would serve as a beautiful bedtime prayer.

HYMN

In the Hour of Trial | CW 406

1 *In the hour of trial,
 Jesus, plead for me
lest by base denial
 I unworthy be.
When you see me waver,
 with a look recall,
nor for fear or favor
 ever let me fall.*

2 *With forbidden pleasures
 should this vain world charm
or its tempting treasures
 spread to work me harm,
bring to my remembrance
 sad Gethsemane
or, in darker semblance,
 cross-crowned Calvary.*

3 *Should your mercy send me
 sorrow, toil, and woe,
or should pain attend me
 on my path below,
grant that I may never
 fail your cross to view;
grant that I may ever
 cast my care on you.*

4 *When my life is ending,
 though in grief or pain,
when my body changes
 back to dust again,
on your truth relying,
 through that mortal strife,
Jesus, take me, dying,
 to eternal life.*

A vocalist will sing verse 1.

- 1) *I look not back; God knows the fruitless efforts,
the wasted hours, the sin, the deep regrets.
I leave them all with him who blots the record,
and graciously forgives, and then forgets.*
- 2) *I look not forward; God sees all the future,
the road that, short or long, will lead me home,
and he will face with me its ev'ry trial,
and bear for me the burdens that may come.*
- 3) *I look not round me; then would fears assail me,
so wild the waves of earth's unruly seas,
so dark the world, so filled with woe and evil,
so vain the hope of comfort and of ease.*
- 4) *I look not inward; that would make me wretched,
for I have naught on which to stay my trust.
I only see my failures and offenses,
and weak endeavors, crumbling into dust.*
- 5) *But I look up into the face of Jesus,
for there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled;
and there is joy, and love, and light for darkness,
and perfect peace, and ev'ry hope fulfilled.*